

Aug. 23.

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NEW LIGHTS ON FAMILIAR SUBJECT

Secretary Robinson Replies to Defender of Beam Trawling.

Fred G. Robinson, the hustling secretary of the Boston Fishermen's committee which has been so active in the fight in opposition to beam trawling has given the following open letter to the press in reply to a defense of the steam trawlers by John R. Neal, the big fresh fish man, which appeared in the Boston Post of August 4.

In the Boston Sunday Post, August 4th, 1912, I read the defense of this steam trawler by John R. Neal, who claims to be the father of the method of fishing in these waters. Some of his statements are extremely misleading to the public.

While there is no trouble to quote from scientists' opinions that were formed years ago before there was time to definitely determine the amount of damage done by this method of fishing (opinions that would not hold good now, and at that time were apparently sound and were in defense of this method of catching fish) at the present day, with the data at hand from the English government reports, it is very easy to see that those opinions were formed erroneously.

For instance, Mr. Neal says: "These commissions and noted scientists agree that there is not the slightest danger that man can reduce the supply of fish in the ocean. The natural enemies do more to destroy fish than man ever has or ever can, according to the reports of these men who have given the matter special study." To prove the fallacy of this statement, I would ask the general public to consider for one minute the following facts:

Fish Plenty Once in Harbors.

First—it is conceded that before the white men landed on these shores fish were plentiful, even right in our harbors. Since this country became populated by the white men, who put devices into the water for catching this fish, they have gradually decreased in number. While there is more fish landed today than ever before, the distance they have to go for them, and the immense increase in the fishing power of the fishing fleet in the way of number of vessels and fishing tackle used, has been responsible for that increase of fish landed. The same amount of fishing gear, and same number of men and vessels used in a similar way 50 years ago, without doubt, would have produced five or 10 times as many fish as they do at the present day, and I would ask the public if it is not a little peculiar that when the Indians alone occupied this continent, and there were more natural enemies to the fish than there

is at the present day, that the food fish increased instead of being devoured by the natural enemies, and is it not a little peculiar that the fish became extremely ravenous just as soon as white men commenced to employ his methods of capture?

When our forefathers landed on these shores, they could catch as many brook trout in an hour as they could lug on their backs from almost any stream in New England. Twenty years ago brook trout was almost extinct in New England brooks. Today the Massachusetts Fish Commission are hatching brook trout, turning them loose in certain brooks and prohibiting man from fishing in those brooks for a certain number of years. In those streams that are protected brook trout become plentiful, and in all streams that are not protected they are what the fishermen call "fished out" and almost absolutely dry of trout.

No doubt our friends, the exponents of the steam trawler will tell us that the natural enemies of brook trout can read the signs "Fishing prohibited in this brook," so they did not destroy the trout when the state says they shall not be caught, but I would like to ask the public why our Massachusetts Fish and Game Commission and our legislators on Beacon Hill have gone so far astray as to prohibit man from catching brook trout when man can do nothing to appreciably diminish the supply of fish?

What applies to our brook trout also applies to our deep sea fishing, and the steam trawler is a hundred times more destructive to small, immature fish as well as spawn fishing than the sportsman's rod and fly can possibly be in our trout brooks.

Thorough Investigation Courted.

The fishermen court a good, thorough investigation, and are very sorry to see that our National House of Representatives has one dissenting voice to an appropriation that will bring to light the actual facts from disinterested parties. For this appropriation can only mean a tax of a very small fraction of a mill to the individual in the United States to have this very important cheap food supply of the common people investigated and protected for the common people if they find it necessary, and we feel sure that the gentlemen in Congress who voted against that appropriation did so not thinking of the importance of this conservation to the food fish supply of the nation.

F. G. ROBINSON, Sec'y.
Boston Fishermen's Com.

HAS NETTED 60 BARRELS MACKEREL.

Sch. Pythian's Skipper Says North Bay Prospects Excellent.

Sch. Pythian, Capt. Alfred Conway, which left here several weeks ago on a combination hooking and netting trip to the North Bay is finding some fish according to recent advices received by her owners here.

When Capt. Conway left port several weeks ago, he was equipped for not only the mackerel fishery, but cod netting as well. With a crew of 10 men, the craft tried her luck at the Magdalen Islands, but the tide ran so strong that cod netting was impossible, and Capt. Conway headed her for

off the Bay of Chaleur, to try his luck with the mackerel.

At the latter place some large mackerel were found and after netting 60 barrels of large fish, Capt. Conway put into Port Daniels for more barrels and salt to resume his trip.

The prospects are excellent for a good fall work, the skipper writes, and he expresses great faith in the outlook. That some good catches may yet be made in North Bay and vicinity would not be out of the ordinary, experts figure, as there is no doubt but what a good-sized body of fish find their way in the bays and hang off the coast until cold weather.

LIVELY ALONG WATER FRONT

Three Shackers Home With Good Fares, Other Crafts Bring Trips.

It was quite lively this morning along the water front, eight trips of fresh and salt fish having arrived since yesterday.

Three of the shackers are home, the new sch. Imperator, Capt. Freeman Decker, being here from her second trip with 75,000 pounds of salt cod, and 55,000 pounds of fresh cod. Sch. Laverna, Capt. Albert Larkin, arrived yesterday with 120,000 pounds of fresh cod and sch. Mary F. Curtis with 130,000 pounds of salt cod.

Sch. Marsala from Georges has 10,000 pounds of salt cod, and sch. Mattie Winship also from a Georges handling trip, has 15,000 pounds of salt cod and 700 weight of halibut. Sch. Olympia one of the salt drifters, has 35,000 pounds of salt cod.

Fares from Boston are sch. Teazer with 50,000 pounds of fresh fish and sch. Mary DeCosta with a like amount.

The gasoline boats brought in over 400 barrels of bluebacks yesterday, the trip of steamer Bryda F. going to Boston.

Today's Arrivals and Receipts.

The arrivals and receipts in detail are:

Sch. Mary F. Curtis, shacking, 130,000 lbs. salt cod.

Sch. Laverna, shacking, 120,000 lbs. fresh cod.

Sch. Marsala, Georges handling, 10,000 lbs. salt cod.

Sch. Olympia, salt drifting, 35,000 salt cod.

Sch. Teazer, via Boston, 50,000 lbs. fresh fish.

Sch. Mary DeCosta, via Boston, 50,000 lbs. fresh fish.

Sch. Mattie Winship, Georges handling, 15,000 lbs. salt cod, 700 lbs. halibut.

Sch. Imperator, shacking, 75,000 lbs. salt cod, 55,000 lbs. fresh cod.

Str. Bryda F., seining, 140 bbls. bluebacks, (went to Boston.)

Str. Independence, seining, 110 bbls. bluebacks, 150 fresh mackerel.

Str. Mercedes, seining, 50 bbls. bluebacks.

Str. Marchant, seining, 40 bbls. bluebacks.

Str. Naomi Bruce, seining, 50 bbls. bluebacks.

Sch. Diana, seining, 35 bbls. salt sea herring.

Sch. Jorgina, via Boston.

Vessels Sailed.

Sch. Jeanette, haddocking.

Sch. Avalon, haddocking.

Sch. Mary F. Sears, haddocking.

Sch. Fannie E. Prescott, haddocking.

Sch. Shenandoah, seining.

Sch. Harmony, seining.

Sch. Pinta, seining.

Sch. Clintonia, seining.

Steamer Water Witch, seining.

Sch. Appomattox, drifting.

Sch. Gladstone, Newfoundland treaty coast.

Sch. W. H. Moody, Georges handling.

TODAY'S FISH MARKET.

Salt Fish.

Trawl bank cod, large, \$3.25; medium, \$2.87 1-2; snappers, \$2.

Handline Georges codfish, large, \$4.00 per cwt.; medium, \$3.50; snappers, \$2.50.

Eastern halibut codfish, large, \$3.25; mediums, \$2.87½; snappers, \$2.00.

Dory handline codfish, large, \$3.50; medium, \$3.12½; snappers, \$2.25.

Georges halibut codfish, large, \$4.12½; mediums, \$3.50.

Drift codfish, large, \$3.75; mediums, \$3.37½.

Haddock, \$1.50.

Pollock, \$1.25.

Cusk, large, \$2.50; medium, \$1.75; snappers, \$1.25.

Hake, \$1.25.

Salt tinker mackerel, \$10 per bbl.

Fledged halibut, 8c per lb.

Fresh Fish.

Haddock, 70c per cwt.

Peak and Cape North cod, large, \$1.75; medium, \$1.50; snappers, 75c.

Western cod, large, \$2.00; mediums, \$1.65; snappers, 75c.

All codfish not gilled, 10c per 100 pounds less than the above.

Hake, 70c.

Cusk, large, \$1.30; medium, \$1.00; snappers, 50c.

Dressed pollock 80c, round 70c.
Bank halibut, 12 1-4c per lb. for white, 8 1-2c for chicken, 10 1-2c for gray.
Fresh mackerel, 35c for large, 5c per lb. for tinkers.
Fresh bluebacks, \$2 to \$2.25 per bbl. for bait; \$1.25 per bbl. to freezer; 60 cts. per bbl. for oil.
Fresh porgies, \$1.25 per bbl. for bait; 75c per bbl. for oil.
Fresh herring, \$1.50 per bbl. to freezer; \$2.50 per bbl. for bait.

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A QUIET MORN ON T WHARF

Arrivals Scarce, but One Brings Fare of Fresh Halibut.

It was rather quiet at T wharf, Boston, this forenoon, only two of the steam trawlers being in since yesterday.

Steamer Ripple has 48,000 pounds and the Surf, 83,000 pounds. Yesterday afternoon sch. Teazer arrived with 20,000 pounds of halibut and a shack fare. The halibut sold at the dock, while the fresh fish were brought here to split. Other fares were sch. Annie Perry, 35,000 pounds and sch. Juno 46,000 pounds.

Haddock brought \$1.25 a hundred pounds, large cod, \$3 to \$3.50, market cod, \$1.70 to \$1.75.

Boston Arrivals.

The fares and prices in detail are: Sch. Teazer, 20,000 cod, 50,000 cusk, 20,000 halibut.

Sch. Annie Perry, 10,000 haddock, 22,000 cod, 3500 pollock.

Sch. Juno, 20,000 haddock, 22,000 cod, 4000 pollock.

Str. Ripple, 22,000 haddock, 26,000 cod.

Str. Surf, 42,000 haddock, 41,000 cod.

Haddock \$1.25 per cwt.; large cod, \$3 to \$3.50; market cod, \$1.70 to \$1.75.

SCHOOLS OFF THE LIGHTSHIP.

Porgy Boats Report Seeing Lots of Mackerel There Yesterday.

The small boats continue to secure good catches of mackerel off Newport, five fares of tinkers being landed at Newport yesterday. They were sch. Priscilla, 40 barrels; Maude Gertrude, 9 barrels; Minnie, 24 barrels; Alice, 41 barrels; Clara T., 16 barrels.

Several of the porgy crafts report sighting large schools of mackerel off the South Shoal Lightship yesterday. The fish were well up in the water, but none of the fleet were in the vicinity at the time.

Several crafts off Provincetown yesterday are reported to have taken fish. A few scattered mackerel were taken by the traps again yesterday, but no great body of fish have yet showed in around the shore.

Had Few Fresh Ones.

Steamer Independence had 150 fresh mackerel among her fare of bluebacks yesterday, which sold to William B. McDonald at 30 cents each for large and 16 cents for mediums.

Mackerel at Portland.

Quite a large fleet of seiners are off the Maine coast, although no catches of any magnitude have been reported.

Mackerel were received at Portland, Wednesday noon, when about 4500 pounds were received on two craft. The gasoline steamer Alice had 3000 pounds and the steamer Carrie and Mildred had 1500 more. Both fares consisted of the largest kind of fish, some of which would run as high as four pounds apiece. The trips were sold to the F. S. Willard Co., on Central wharf.

According to the incoming skippers, there were three schools of large mackerel off the port Wednesday. Except for the two that came in, none of the craft landed any fish.

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BAITING OF THE FRENCH BANKERS.

This is a Question Which is Bothering Canadian Officials.

The Canadian department of marine and fisheries has before it a problem of a somewhat international character, says an Ottawa despatch. It is the question of whether French vessels engaged in trawl fisheries on the Grand Banks can buy bait in Canadian ports. Newfoundland has passed legislation prohibiting to the French fisherman this privilege and Canada is consequently the principal source of supply. It has been customary for some time for the vessels to make their purchase at Sydney, N. S. This has caused some protest and the matter has been referred to the department. The steam trawlers coal at Sydney and for the ordinary trawlers to buy bait there involves the same principle. The view expressed at the department is that there is nothing to prevent the French fishermen from securing such supplies in Canadian ports.

"FLAR" MCKOWN ON MACKEREL.

Capt. Florence McKown, old time mackerel catcher, is all at sea when it comes to giving a reason for the disappearance of these fish from the coast.

"Capt. Flar," as he has been called for three decades, was in Portland Friday afternoon with a big load of bluebacks. He is now commander of the fishing steamer Nashawena and landed 150 barrels of the herring here Friday.

He was asked about mackerel, because one naturally thinks of mackerel and little else when Capt. McKown is around. "I wouldn't dare to give a reason for their disappearance," said the skipper. "They come and they go, but there is no reason for it as far as I can say. I believe the fish will be found off the coast if there is the feed for them and if there is no feed, there will be no fish. That is about all there is to it."

The famous old fisherman was very enthusiastic over the outlook for a good mackerel season this year. "There seem to be signs of the fish," he said. "Some good trips of big ones have been caught and there has been no end of tinkers. Good fares ought to be brought in."

To the younger fishermen of today, the name of Capt. "Flar" McKown is practically unknown. Thirty years ago he was one of the most famous mackerel catchers on the New England coast. He sailed in the schooner James Dyer, which was built for him and a number of other vessels. He was always successful and proved one of the most popular captains sailing out of Portland.

Just at present Capt. McKown is in charge of four boats for Boston men. Two of them are converted steam yachts, the Geisha, which has been a frequent visitor to Portland, and the Nashawena which was in here Friday. The latter was formerly owned by a Mr. Bogg, a big grocer of Boston. In addition to these two steamers, two gasoline craft are also under the charge of "Flar." He has engaged to seine this summer, but in the winter he goes gill netting.—Portland Press.

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Digby Fishing Notes.

The Digby fishermen are having a good season. The recent foggy weather has interfered with the usual catch, and also with the making of the fish.

The Maritime Fish company is doing a splendid business, and is one of the live firms of the province. The finnan haddie trade is of prime importance, as it ensures high prices for green fish.

The smoked herring business is poor, as the herring have not been running well this year. Some of the weirs are not being operated.

The fishery officers are getting after offenders against the lobster laws. The summer hotel business offers a temptation in this regard, and many traps are set to supply the illegal demands of the tourists. Some fifty traps have recently been discovered and destroyed.

The following are the market prices for green fish—Cod, \$1.50, haddock, \$1.75, hake, 65c, pollock, 80c, cusk, \$1.00, halibut, \$6.00, flounders, \$2.00, dulse, \$5.00, winkles, \$1.00 per bushel. Quite a trade in dulse is carried on and considerable shipments are made to Boston.

Lockport Fishing Notes.

The foggy weather of the past week practically put a stop to the fishing business. Very few boats went out. Good catches of herring are being taken, and halibut and sword-fish are quite numerous.

Good catches of herring are being made by the nets in the harbor and about Jordan Bay. Line fishing has been dull as the men are busy with the herring nets.

Fishing at Clark's Harbor has been fair throughout this district. Good catches of halibut have been taken the past few weeks. Herring are plentiful at Woods Harbor, Shag Harbor, Cape Negro and Baccaro. American fishing vessels baited at Shag Harbor.

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New Craft for Pensacola.

The "Captain William Hays" will be the name of the latest addition to the fishing fleet of the Warren Fish Company now nearing completion in the ship-building plant of that company at the foot of Baylen street, wharf, Pensacola. The new smack which is now being officially measured by the custom officials and which will soon be launched and placed in commission, is one of the best boats that has ever been turned out in Pensacola and the name that has been selected for it to carry is appropriate, indeed.

Capt. Hays, prior to his death some time ago, was long affiliated with the deep sea fishing industry of Pensacola. He was one of the most conspicuous dealers in the South and was one of the founders of the flourishing Warren Fish Company.

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STEAM TRAWLER WENT ASHORE.

The Heroine Hit Off Baker's Island and Was Floated by Tug.

Lost in the fog that spread its grey pall over the North Shore early yesterday morning the big steam trawler Heroine of East Boston ran ashore off Baker's Island.

Though she floated off with the flood tide, she lost her propeller and was forced to put into Boston in tow of a tug.

The Heroine was one of the fastest of the blockade runners during the Civil war, and was in many brushes with the federal fleets. She has been in the merchant marine for many years.

SMALL FARES OF MACKEREL

Two of Them at T Wharf Today, also Two Steam Trawlers.

Two of the fleet of steam trawlers with fresh fish and two small crafts with mackerel closed the week's list of arrivals at T wharf, Boston, this forenoon.

Trade was not very rushing on groundfish; for Saturday is generally a pretty poor day in fish circles. The Heroine had about 40,000 pounds of groundfish and 4000 pounds of lemon soles and the Foam, 31,000 pounds and 500 pounds of lemon soles.

The two mackerel fares were schs. Charles A. Dyer with 1300 large and mediums and Little Fannie with 900 large fish. Large mackerel met a ready sale at 30 cents each, and mediums, 20 cents.

Haddock was down to \$1 and \$1.30 a hundred pounds, large cod, \$3.50 to \$4; market cod, \$1.60 to \$1.80 and pollock, \$2.30.

BOSTON LIGHT THE OLDEST.

Boston light, eight miles below that city and situated at the very outer end of the ocean channel, was built in 1715 by the government of England and is believed to be the oldest lighthouse in America. It is constructed of rough boulder stone, hooped with iron bands, and presents a prominent coast mark for the navigator's guidance. The light stands on what is known as Little Brewster Island and is tended by a head keeper and two assistants. The fog-horn installed in connection with the light can be heard about seven miles away. Besides the great revolving light in the tower there is also a set of red and white range lights to guide vessels coming to anchor in that vicinity. Before the structure was equipped with a fog horn, a cannon, contributed by the Cunard Steamship Company, was used to fire warning salutes. This old cannon is still on the ground, but is not now in use.

Herring Off Halifax.

Herring have struck in along the shore of Halifax county in real earnest and are rapidly being taken by the shore fishermen in gill nets. The run is generally expected at this time of the year to reach the Nova Scotian coast, but was encountered in July of last year. The quantity caught speaks well for a good month's harvest and the finny ones are keeping within striking distance. Last Wednesday no less than a thousand barrels of them were taken and indications point to this catch increasing materially from day to day. It will compensate those fishermen who relied upon the July fishing to secure their fares, but whose expectations were not realized.

Herring Strike at Louisburg.

Fishermen fishing off Louisburg Gabardus and vicinity report sighting a large number of whales. It is several years since so many whales have been sighted on this coast.

Herring, which have been scarce all summer, have struck in, in large numbers during the past few days. During the latter part of last week, one Louisburg fisherman succeeded in landing no less than 1660 in Gabardus bay.

The first swordfish to be landed this season was captured by Pat Wadden, a Louisburg fisherman, one day last week. The fish, which weighed about 700 lbs. was captured off Scaterie.

Brought Up Body on Trawls.

Capt. Elisha Leavitt of the fishing sloop Glad Tidings made a ghastly find yesterday forenoon while fishing to the eastward of the Brown Cow, off Mary island, on the Maine coast. In lifting his trawls he pulled up the terribly decomposed body of a man, which had evidently been in the water for a long time, and was in such an unrecognizable shape that the skipper did not hesitate a moment in cutting it adrift. The corpse was attired in a blue suit, coat and pants.

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BUT TWO FARES IN HERE TODAY

Sch. Avalon Brings Small Halibut Trip, was Seven Weeks Out.

It was a rather quiet morning here, after yesterday's grist of arrivals, only two fares being here this morning.

Sch. Avalon after a seven weeks' trip down on Western Bank is back with 8000 pounds of halibut, 20,000 pounds of fresh fish and 18,000 pounds of salt cod.

Down from Boston is sch. Juno with 40,000 pounds of fresh fish which went to the splitters.

Vessels Sailed.

Sch. Marguerite Haskins, seining.
Sch. Selma, halibuting.
Sch. Georgiana, shacking.
Sch. John R. Bradley, eastern deck handlining.

Today's Arrivals and Receipts.

The arrivals and receipts in detail are:

Str. Heroine, 33,000 haddock, 4000 cod, 200 hake, 4000 lemon soles, 2000 halibut.

Str. Foam, 15,000 haddock, 16,200 cod, 500 lemon soles 500 pollock.

Sch. Charles A. Dwyer, 1300 large and medium fresh mackerel.

Sch. Little Fannie, 900 large fresh mackerel.

Haddock, \$1 to \$1.35 per cwt.; large cod, \$3.50 to \$4; market cod, \$1.60 to \$1.80; pollock, \$2.30; large fresh mackerel, 30c each; mediums, 20c.

Sch. Avalon, Western Bank, 8000 lbs. halibut, 20,000 lbs. fresh fish, 18,000 lbs. salt cod.

Sch. Juno, via Boston, 40,000 lbs. fresh fish.

TODAY'S FISH MARKET.

Salt Fish.

Trawl bank cod, large, \$3.25; medium, \$2.87 1-2; snappers, \$2.

Handline Georges codfish, large, \$4.00 per cwt.; medium, \$3.50; snappers, \$2.50.

Eastern halibut codfish, large, \$3.25; mediums, \$2.87 1/2; snappers, \$2.00.

Dory handline codfish, large, \$3.50; medium, \$3.12 1/2; snappers, \$2.25.

Georges halibut codfish, large, \$4.12 1/2; mediums, \$3.50.

Drift codfish, large, \$3.75; mediums, \$3.37 1/2.

Haddock, \$1.50.

Pollock, \$1.25.

Cusk, large, \$2.50; medium, \$1.75; snappers, \$1.25.

Hake, \$1.25.

Salt tinker mackerel, \$12 per bbl.

Fledged halibut, 8c per lb.

Fresh Fish.

Haddock, 70c per cwt.

Peak and Cape North cod, large, \$1.75; medium, \$1.50; snappers, 75c.

Western cod, large, \$2.00; mediums, \$1.65; snappers, 75c.

All codfish not gilled, 10c per 100 pounds less than the above.

Hake, 70c.

Cusk, large, \$1.30; medium, \$1.00; snappers, 50c.

Dressed pollock 80c, round 70c.

Bank halibut, 12 1-2c per lb. for white, 10 1-2c for gray, 9c for chicken.

Fresh mackerel, 35c for large, 5c per lb. for tinkers.

Fresh bluebacks, \$2 to \$2.25 per bbl. for bait; \$1.25 per bbl. to freezer; 60 cts. per bbl. for oil.

Fresh porgies, \$1.25 per bbl. for bait; 75c per bbl. for oil.

Fresh herring, \$1.50 per bbl. to freezer; \$2.50 per bbl. for bait.

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Swordfish On Nova Scotia Coast.

A large number of swordfish are being caught all along the Nova Scotia coast. The steamer Margaret arrived in Halifax from St. Peters with 10,000 pounds on board on Wednesday, and a number of small vessels have landed various quantities averaging from five to ten swordfish a trip.

Halibut Sale.

The halibut fare of sch. Avalon was purchased by the American Halibut company this morning at 12 1-2 cents a pound for white, 10 1-2 cents for gray and nine cents for chicken.